

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUITO 03139 151532 Z

47

ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 SCI-06 RSR-01 RSC-01 /031 W

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R 151245 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7757

UNCLAS QUITO 3139

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH- EC

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF REPORT OF URANIUM DISCOVERY

REF: STATE 112344

1. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED OUT USAEC' S REPORT OF A DISCOVERY OF URANIUM IN ECUADOR. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE OR TO IDENTIFY USAEC' S SOURCE, GONZALO BACA (OR POSSIBLY, VACA). THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS NO OFFICIAL OF THAT NAME. THE EMBASSY IS ALSO UNAWARE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OR OF TALK WITHIN BUSINESS CIRCLES OF A URANIUM DISCOVERY AND WE DOUBT THAT SUCH AN EVENT WOULD HAVE REMAINED SECRET. HEAD OF GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT POLITECNICA, WHICH IS EXPLORING FOR URANIUM, SAYS NO SIGNIFICANT DEPOSIT HAS BEEN FOUND IN ECUADOR.

2. IT IS KNOWN THAT THERE ARE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS AND POSSIBLY URANIUM IN THE AREA OF THE CORDILLERA CALLED LLANGANATES (EAST OF AMBATO). THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF GEOLOGICAL WORK DONE IN THIS HIGH, REMOTE, AND DIFFICULT TERRAIN HAS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF RADIOACTIVE MINERALS. BUT WE KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC DEPOSIT DISCOVERED IN THE AREA. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THE REPORT THAT HAS REACHED USAEC IS BASED UPON THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE ARE AREAS IN ECUADOR THAT SHOW INDICATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.

CHAPLIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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